

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Application in light of the Final Office Action mailed January 4, 2006. At the time of the Final Office Action, Claims 21-25 were pending in the Application. Applicant amends Independent Claims 21 and 25 in order to address a minor clerical error. It is important to note that the amendments are not the result of any prior art reference and, thus, do not narrow the scope of any of the claims. Furthermore, the amendments are not related to patentability issues, only further clarify subject matter already present, and have been made only to advance the prosecution of this case. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims and favorable action in this case.

Section 112 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 21-25 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner further rejects to Claims 21-25 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has addressed the Examiner's concerns with a number of amendments to Independent Claims 21 and 25. Hence, this rejection is now moot in light of the amendments and, therefore, should be withdrawn. All of the pending claims are in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 21-25 of the present application are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 4-10, 24, and 41 of U.S. Patent No. 6,260,070. Applicant has addressed the Examiner's concerns with a number of amendments to Independent Claims 21 and 25. Thus, this rejection is now moot in light of the amendments and, therefore, should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, all of the claims are now in condition for immediate allowance. Notice to this effect is respectfully requested by Applicant in the form of a full allowance of the pending claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clear and apparent, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

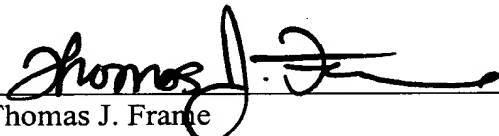
Applicant submits herewith a check in the amount of \$790.00 to satisfy the request for continued examination fee of 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e). If this is not correct, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts, L.L.P.

If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to advance prosecution of this application, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact its attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

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